predecessors, for in 950 his son and successor was killed by the latters own generals.

In 951 the commander of a victorious expedition against the Khitan was raised by his own soldiers to the throne and gave to his dynasty the name of Hou Chou, or Later Chou. An able general and administrator, he died (954) before he could bring peace to the distraught Empire. His successor, his adopted son, although an efficient ruler who added to the territory which he had inherited, did not conquer all China, and the minor who followed was powerless to do so.

Disorganized and anarchic though the first half of the tenth century was, the normal processes of peaceful life were by no means entirely suspended and some advance was registered. Much of the administrative machinery appears to have gone on but little disturbed by the rapid change of ruling houses. One statesman, for example, Feng Tao, who described himself as the "ever gay old man," held high office under all but the first of the five dynasties. Printing by wooden blocks was further developed and gave a fresh impetus to scholarship. In the state of Shu, established in what is now Szechwan at the downfall of the T'ang by a general of that dynasty, the Classics were engraved in stone and set up in the capital, the present Chengtu, and at least part of them were printed by means of wooden blocks. In the East, under the aegis of several of the changing central dynasties, and under the inspiration of Feng Tao, an imperial commission prepared a revised text of the Classics, and the completed edition, printed, was presented to the Emperor in 953. The way was further prepared for the remarkable painting of landscapes

which so characterized the succeeding Sung dynasty.

THE FOUNDING OF THE SUNG DYNASTY

The welter of disorder was at last brought to an end by one Chao K'uang-yin. Chao K'uang-yin traced his descent through a line of T'ang officials and had risen to be the chief general of the Later Chou. He was proclaimed Emperor by his soldiers and proved able enough both to retain the title and, having pacified the Empire, to pass it on to his family. The dynasty was called Sung and Chao K'uang-yin was known to later generations as T'ai Tsu. With military skill T'ai Tsu combined magnanimity